

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cutting head for a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, of the type comprising a passageway (112) for a strand of cutting string (300) and a movable locking element (400) suitable for locking the strand of cutting string (300) in its passageway, characterized in that the passageway is rectilinear and offset from a central axis of the head and opens at both ends at the periphery of the head, and in that the movable locking element is a one way-locking element, whereby [[a]] the strand of cutting string can be readily inserted into the passageway from a first end opening thereof and extracted from the passageway from the second end opening thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the movable locking element is located between the passageway and the periphery of the head.

3. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the movable locking element comprises a shoe forced to move in translation in an oblique direction relative to the direction of the ~~string~~ passageway and suitable for being acted upon to move closer to the ~~string~~ passageway.

4. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to claim 3, characterized in that it comprises a cavity (114) sheltering the movable locking element and delimited on one side by the ~~string~~ passageway (112) and on an opposite side by a surface (116) oriented at an oblique angle relative to the direction of the ~~string~~ passageway, and in that the movable locking element comprises both a working face (404) capable of locking the cutting string and a bearing face (402) oriented at an oblique angle relative to the working face and suitable for sliding against the said obliquely angled surface (116) of the cavity.

5. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 4, characterized in that

the working face (404) of the movable locking element is oriented substantially in one plane.

6. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the movable locking element (400) is acted upon by a pushing member (500).

7. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 6, characterized in that the pushing member (500) comprises a pressure spring.

8. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 7, characterized in that the pressure spring (500) acts between one surface (117) of the cavity situated in the region where the obliquely angled surface is furthest from the string passageway and a region opposite (408) the movable locking element.

9. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the movable locking element (400) comprises, in the region of one extremity on the side of engagement with the strand of cutting string, a string guidance cut-away section (406).

10. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the movable locking element comprises on a working face, arrangements (404) for gripping with the strand of cutting string.

11. (Original) A cutting head according to Claim 10, characterized in that the gripping arrangements comprise teeth (404).

12. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 10, characterized in that the gripping arrangements (404) are provided substantially along the whole extent of the working face of the movable locking element.

13. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that

the movable locking element (400) comprises in a working face a longitudinal slot (403) suitable for at least partially receiving the strand of cutting string.

14. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the strand of cutting string (300) presents a rugged section, and in that the movable locking element (400) is suitable for acting on a ridge of the strand of cutting string.

15. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the movable locking element (400) is suitable for moving in translation in a direction generally transverse to a radial direction of the head.

16. (Original) A vegetation cutting device such as a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, characterized in that it comprises a cutting head (100) according to Claim 1 and a motor suitable for driving said head in rotation.

17. (New) A cutting head according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second end openings are positioned to open onto the periphery of the head at circumferentially spaced apart locations, and wherein the rectilinear passageway extends in a straight line between the first and second end openings.